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# INDEX *to the Fifty-eighth* VOLUME.


A.

ACCOUNT of the different voyages towards the North Pole, by Conſtantine, Earl of Mulgrave, Page 275, 281—of the Sea-cow 235—of the revolt of the fleet in 1648, 28—of the Perreaus 52—of the City of Durham 57—of the Mohocks 188—of the retreat from Boſton 277—of Mount Cenis 305—of Pere Nicolas 308—of Edinburgh 345—of an Hoſpital at Genoa 361—of the Galley Slaves 363

Addreſs to the King 163, 275

Advices, Foreign 49. 103. 157. 216. 273. 328

Adultery, thoughts on 236

Albergo, an hoſpital, account of 361

Allegory, Cupid and the Graces 3

All's Well that Ends Well, the Morality of 377

America, on the juſtneſs of the preſent war with, by Dr. Price 88

Americans, their operations 51. 52. 107. 108. 156. 161. 276. 321—Prizes taken from them 220. 277. 332

Anecdotes of a poor Widow 157—of the great Condé 113, 196—of an American Wife 128—of K. Charles I. 170—of the Princeſs of Condé 241—of George Edwards 253—of the Duke of Richmond, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Mead, and Mr. Folkes 257—of Pere Nicolas 308—of Peter the Great 337—of an extraordinary character 287

Antiquities diſcovered 49

Aſton's (Judge) ſpeech, the ſubſtance of 325

Athens deſcribed 177. 258. 351

Atkins (Sir Robert) his life 293

B.

Ball on the King's birth-day at St. James's 330

Ballad for the Maſquerade at the Caſſino 265

Bankrupt, favourite ſcene from the 309

Bankrupts for January 55—February 110—March 166—April—222—May 278—June 334

Barker's (Sir Robert) proceſs of making ice in the Eaſt-Indies 135

Barry's remarks on Wine Vaults 354

Bath-Ball, a poem 265

Battle of Great Bridge 108—at Quebec 156. 322. 332

Belle (the Modern) a poem 374

Benevolence, inſtances of 296

Bills receive the royal aſſent 164. 218. 271. 275. 276

Births 54. 108. 164. 221. 277. 333

Books publiſhed in January 55—February 111—March 167—April 223—May 279—June 335

Boſton evacuated 277

Branville's (Sir Anthony) Addreſs to the Ladies 103

That all the miſeries, which Nature owes,
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# INDEX *to the Fifty-eighth* VOLUME.


A.

ACCOUNT of the different voyages towards the North Pole, by Conſtantine, Earl of Mulgrave, Page 275, 281—of the Sea-cow 235—of the revolt of the fleet in 1648, 28—of the Perreaus 52—of the City of Durham 57—of the Mohocks 188—of the retreat from Boſton 277—of Mount Cenis 305—of Pere Nicolas 308—of Edinburgh 345—of an Hoſpital at Genoa 361—of the Galley Slaves 363

Addreſs to the King 163, 275

Advices, Foreign 49. 103. 157. 216. 273. 328

Adultery, thoughts on 236

Albergo, an hoſpital, account of 361

Allegory, Cupid and the Graces 3

All's Well that Ends Well, the Morality of 377

America, on the juſtneſs of the preſent war with, by Dr. Price 88

Americans, their operations 51. 52. 107. 108. 156. 161. 276. 321—Prizes taken from them 220. 277. 332

Anecdotes of a poor Widow 157—of the great Condé 113, 196—of an American Wife 128—of K. Charles I. 170—of the Princeſs of Condé 241—of George Edwards 253—of the Duke of Richmond, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Mead, and Mr. Folkes 257—of Pere Nicolas 308—of Peter the Great 337—of an extraordinary character 287

Antiquities diſcovered 49

Aſton's (Judge) ſpeech, the ſubſtance of 325

Athens deſcribed 177. 258. 351

Atkins (Sir Robert) his life 293

B.

Ball on the King's birth-day at St. James's 330

Ballad for the Maſquerade at the Caſſino 265

Bankrupt, favourite ſcene from the 309

Bankrupts for January 55—February 110—March 166—April—222—May 278—June 334

Barker's (Sir Robert) proceſs of making ice in the Eaſt-Indies 135

Barry's remarks on Wine Vaults 354

Bath-Ball, a poem 265

Battle of Great Bridge 108—at Quebec 156. 322. 332

Belle (the Modern) a poem 374

Benevolence, inſtances of 296

Bills receive the royal aſſent 164. 218. 271. 275. 276

Births 54. 108. 164. 221. 277. 333

Books publiſhed in January 55—February 111—March 167—April 223—May 279—June 335

Boſton evacuated 277

Branville's (Sir Anthony) Addreſs to the Ladies 103

# INDEX.


Brutus, his ingratitude to Cæſar 65
Buncle (John) his remarks 347

C.

Cariſbrook-Caſtle, an hiſtorical account of 169
Carleton (Gen.) his letters from Quebec 322
Cauſes in the different Courts 53. 104. 105. 106. 162. 164. 217. 273. 274. 330. 331
Cælia, an elegy 94
Cenis (Mount) an account of 304
Chamberlain choſen 161, 332
Chandler's preſent ſtate of Smyrna 29, 75
Chandler's Travels into Greece 177. 258. 351
Character (extraordinary) anecdotes of one 287
Charity, a letter on 295
Charles I. account of his confinement 170
Characters of the late Duke of Richmond, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Mead, and Martin Folkes, Eſqj 257
Character of Thomas, Earl of Oſſory 19—of Dr. Hill, 37—of Harry Followpeer 37—of a Philoſopher 42—of Lord Cheſterfield 69. 239—of Dr. Cofins 80—at Bath 265—of ſeveral travellers 347
Chaſtity conſidered 65. 239
Cheſterfield (Lord) remarks on his Letters 69. 122. 194. 239. 375
Cicero compared with Lord Cheſterfield 124
Circuits appointed for the Lent Aſſizes 100—for the Summer Aſſizes 327
Coin gold, proclamation relating to 210
Coleman's Prologue to the Comedy of Epicœne, or the Silent Woman 40
Common Council, proceedings at, 274
Commiſſioners appointed by the King 276
Condé (the Great) memoirs of 113. 196—of the Firſt Prince of 241
Conduct of Life, rules for 87
Correſpondents, acknowledgements to, for January 48—February 104—March 159—April 216—May 272—June 329
Cofin (Dr.) the life of 77
Couple, the Contented 204
Cowper, Earl Cowper, an account of his family 152
Cupid and the Graces, an allegory 3
Cuthbert (St.) ſtory of 59
Cymbeline, the morality of Shakeſpeare's 181
Curate (the good) account of 308

D.

Daphne and Alexis, an eclogue 343
Death, reflections on 231
Deaths 54. 109. 165. 221. 278. 333
Deciſion, the Juſt, a tale 133
Deſpair, the origin of 183
Devil (the) ſtory of 58
Directors of the Eaſt-India Company choſen 219
Divorces conſidered 193
Dobſon's experiments in a heated room, in a letter to John Fothergill, M. D. 172
Durham, a conciſe account of the city of 57

E.

Earthquake at Caen, 103
Eaſter, a poem 206
Eclogues, Dametus and Milon 171—Daphne and Alexis 343
Edinburgh, an account of 345
Education of Women, highly important 315
Edwards (George) his Memoirs 253
Elegy to Cælia 39—on Mr. Pinkney 41—on Lord Lyttleton 373
Eleonora, or the Faithful Wife, an hiſtorical romance 241
England, the hiſtory of 21. 84. 139. 186. 244. 298. 357
Epitaph on Johnny Morden 152—on G. Edwards 256—on an Infant 264
Epidemic cough and fever, account of, in a letter to Dr. Dalacour, of Bath 46
Epilogue to the Runaway 150—to the Spleen 207
Eudoxia, the (Empreſs) her Memoirs 337
Executions 52. 163. 218. 219. 276. 331
Experiments in a heated room 172—tried at Woolwich 329
Eſſay (humourous) on Riches 248
Eugene (Prince) his proceedings 188. 360

F.

Fairs, Moveable 49. 102. 157. 217. 273. 328
Felons attempt to eſcape 105. 160
Female Sex, hiſtory of 5. 65. 126. 191. 236. 313
Fires, at Paris 50—at Grenada 162—at Norfolk, in America 164—near Amiens 216—at Belton 329
Followpeer (Harry) his character 37
Fordyce, on the Society of virtuous Women 81
Foreign Advices 49. 103. 157. 216. 273. 328
Fraud, a ſingular inſtance of one 50
Frederick and Iſiodora, or Love makes an Artiſt, a tale 301
Froſt, account of a great one 104

G.

Galley Slaves, account of 363
Garrick, on Grace 41—his Prologue 150. 331—his laſt Prologue 318—his ſpeech on retiring 331

# INDEX.


Geſner's Virtue Rewarded, a tale 60
Geſner's Wooden Leg, a tale 8
Geſner's Serenade 121
Geſner's Dametus 171
Glee at the Maſquerade 265
Glouceſter (Biſhop) the literary Portrait of 44
Gaol diſtemper rages in Dublin 218
Goldſmith (Dr.) his account of the Scorpion 32
Grace, Verſes on 41
Grant (Dr.) his account of the epidemic cough 46
Gray's Ode to Mr. Weſt 40
Gray, a tranſlation of his Latin Ode 95
Greece, travels in 177. 258. 351

H.

Hamlet, on the alterations of 101
Happineſs produced by Women 315
Happineſs, Verſes on, by Mr. Jenner 41
Hill (Sir John) his Memoirs 35
Hiſtory (Natural) of the Scorpion 32—of the Wittol 97—of the Swift 233—of the Sea-Cow 235—of the Starling 320. 369—of the Sand-martin 370—of the Black Cattle-picker 208—of the Houſe-ſwallow 208
Hiſtory of England 21. 84. 139. 186. 244. 298. 357
Hiſtory of the Female Sex, 5. 65. 126. 191. 236. 312
Hiſtory of a Race-Horſe 19
Hoſpitable Shepherd, a Tale 228
Houſe-ſwallow, an account of the, in a letter from the Rev. Gilbert White 208
Howe (Gen.) his operations 277
Humerous Deſcription of the Modern Head-dreſs 95
Hunter's Reflections, critical and moral, on the Letters of the late Lord Cheſterfield 69. 122. 194. 239—his Character 69. 239. 375
Hurd, (Dr.) literary Portrait of 72
Hymen and Pomona, a Poem 319

I.

Janſen (Sir Stephen) reſigns the Chamberlainſhip 106
Ice, how made in Aſia 135
Iceberg (the) deſcribed 285—Nautical remarks 287
Jenner (Rev. Mr.) on happineſs 41
Infant, an Epitaph on 264
Innocence, the power of imitating, from Horace 151
Inſects, Natural Hiſtory of 82
Inſolence of Office, Verſes on 371
Italy, letters from, written by an Engliſh woman 304. 361
Julius Cæſar, the morality of Shakeſpeare's 61
Juſt Deciſion, a tale 133

K.

King, (the) petitioned by the city 163—his meſſage to the Houſe 268—his Speech 272—addreſſed 275
Kingſton (Ducheſs) ſummary of her trial 212
Kingſton (Duke of) his Will 251

L.

Lady Luxborough's Verſes to William Shenſtone, Eſq; written at the Leaſowes 40
Leg, the Wooden, a tale 8
Lent Aſſizes, Circuits appointed for 100
Letters on the female ſex 5. 65. 126. 191. 236. 313
Letter Poetical, from Mr. Inkle, a freeman of Bath, to his wife at Glouceſter 205. 265—from Myrtilla to Melanthes 316. 372
Letters Occaſional, from a brother to a ſiſter 295
Letters from Italy 304. 361—from the Prince of Orange 18—from the Duke of Marlborough 25—from the two Perreaus 53
Lewis (Prince) of Bourbon, Memoirs of 113
Life of Dr. Coſins Biſhop of Durham 77—of the Great Condé 113. 196—of Sir Robert Atkins 293—of Eudoxia Empreſs of Ruſſia 337
Life of the late Sir John Hill 35
Life of Thomas Earl of Oſſory 15
Life, rules for the conduct of 87
Lover the Reſtleſs, a Dramatic Tale 25
Lover the Impatient, a Tale 184

M.

Marlborough (Duke) his letter to Queen Anne 25—attacked by virulent Writers 140
Marriages 54. 108. 164. 221. 277. 333
Matrimony, whether we are directed to it by Nature 7
May-day, a Poem 264
Meaſure for Meaſure, the Morality of Shakeſpeare's 229
Memoirs, Authentic, of the life and writeings of the late Sir John Hill 35
Memoirs of Prince Lewis of Bourbon 113. 196—of Lewis, the firſt Prince 241
Memorial of Weſt-India Planters 160
Memoirs of the late George Edwards 253
Memoirs of Eudoxia, Empreſs of Ruſſia 337
Midnight, Elegy written near, to Cælia 39
Midas, the Fable of 356
Montbeillard's Hiſtory of the Lariot or Wittol 97—of the Starling 320. 369


Mora-

# INDEX.


Morality of Shakeſpeare's Tempeſt 11
Morality of Shakeſpeare's Julius Cæſar 61
Moral Remarks, by a Lady 262
Morality of Shakeſpeare's Much ado about Nothing 129
Moral Ode: On a hermitage 42
Moral Reflection 264
Morning, Verſes on 263
Mortality (Bills of) for Jan. 55—Feb. 111—March 167—April 223—May 279—June 335
Much ado about Nothing, the morality of Shakeſpeare's 129
Mulgrave (Lord) his voyages to the north 225. 281
Murder, a horrid one 218
Myrtilla to Melanthes; an heroic Epiſtle 316. 372

N.

Natural Hiſtory of Inſects 32
Nicholas (Pere) a ſhort account of 308
Numidia, the unfortunate Queen of, an hiſtorical romance 137

O.

Ode for his Majeſty's birth day 319
Ode of Horace imitated 148—ſent to a friend on his birth-day 204
Ode by Mr. Gray 39—another 40—a moral ode 42—from Horace 148—to a friend 204
Office, the inſtance of 371
Oil, its effects on the water 103
Order of the Garter, on the origin of 250
Oſſory, Earl of, his life 15—his character 19
Ox (an) extraordinary ſize of 329

P.

Panthea, a tale 174
Parliament, proceedings in the preſent 98. 153. 215. 267
Peaſant, a Poem 93
Perreaus (the brothers) executed 52
Peerage (the Engliſh) account of the Earl of Suffolk 45—of Earl Cowper 152—of Earl Stanhope 261—ſtate of the Iriſh 329
Philoſopher, the character of, a true one 42
Pinkney, the Rev. on the death of 41
Plan of Weſtminſter-hall 211
Pleadings, &c. upon Mr. Sayer's action 365
Plan for public peace 145
Polygamy conſidered 65 190
Portrait of the Biſhop of Glouceſter 44—of Dr. Hurd 72
Preferments 54. 109. 165. 222. 333. 278
Price (Dr.) on the juſtice of the war with America 88—on the policy of the war with America 90—on the improbability of ſucceeding in the American war 142—his letter of thanks 274
Prologue, occaſional, ſpoken by Mr. Garrick the laſt time of his performing 318
Prologue to the Silent Woman 40.—to the Provoked Huſband 41—to the Runaway 149—to the Spleen 206—to Tancred 265.
Promotions 54. 109. 165. 222. 333. 278

Q.

Quebec attacked 156. 322. 332
Query, a poetical one 204

R.

Race-Horſe, the hiſtory of one 19
Remarks, moral 262
Reply (the) an Extempore 318
Reports of Convicts 51. 104
Revolt of the fleet in 1640, an account of 28
Riches, the plague of 248
Rival, the ſuppoſed, a Dramatic Tale 73
Roſe, an invitation to the 151—Roſe Bud, a Poem 372
Rules for the conduct of life 9. 151
Runaway (a Play) the plot of 96—Prologue to the 149—Epilogue to the 150
Runaway, Scenes from the Comedy of the 118

S.

Sailor's Song 374
Sand Martin, account of that bird 370
Sayre (Mr.) his action againſt Lord Rochford 365
Scenes from Three Weeks after Marriage 288—from the Bankrupt 309—from the Comedy of the Runaway 118
Scorpion, the Natural Hiſtory of 32
Sea-Cow, account of the 235
Seneca compared with Lord Cheſterfield 125
Serenade, a tale 121
Shakeſpeare and Garrick, a new dialogue, occaſioned by the alterations in Hamlet 101
Shelburne (Lord) his plan 145
Shepherd, the hoſpitable 228
Sheriffs appointed for the preſent year 100—addreſs to the King 275
Ships (a liſt of) for America 160—ſold 330
Shipwrecks at Corke 51, 105, 219
Song, a new, addreſſed to Miſs S. P—tt—n, by a youth 39—by a Sailor 374
Speech on the Scots brigades 158—of Lord Privy-ſeal 246—to the King 271—the King's 272

Spleen, Prologue to the 206—Epilogue to the ſame 207
Spleen (a Comedy) the plot of 147—ſcenes from 201
Spring, verſes on 151
Sunday night in town 373
Stage, the; an account of the new pieces that have been performed at the Theatres 96, 145
Stamp Act, a new one 275
Stanhope, Earl Stanhope, an account of his family 261
Starling, Natural Hiſtory of 320, 369
Stocks, the prices of, January 55—February 111—March 167—April 223—May 279—June 335
Storm of hail, &c. 328
Supplies, debate on 155
Sutton's prologue to the Provoked Huſband, at the ſeat of the Hon. Mr. Hobart 41
Swift, or Black-martin, Natural Hiſtory of the 233
Syrens (a Maſque) the plot of 146

T.

Tales. The Wooden Leg 8—the Reſtleſs Lover 25—Virtue rewarded 60—the ſuppoſed Rival 73—the Serenade 121—the Juſt Deciſion 133—the Queen of Numidia 137—Dametus 171—the Heroic Wife 175—the Impatient Lover 184—the Hoſpitable Shepherd 228—the Faithful Wife 241—Love makes an Artiſt 301—Midas 356
Tancred and Sigiſmunda, Prologue to 265
Tempeſt, the morality of the Play ſo called 11
Teſtament (the) prohibited to be read by women 126
Thaw, a poem 94
Three Weeks after Marriage, ſcenes from the new Comedy of 288
Travellers, a poem 315
Trial of the Ducheſs of Kingſton 212
Triumph, the Bacchanalian, a new trio, ſung at Ranelagh 207

V.

Utrecht, treaty of 243, 358
Variety, a new ballad 317
Verſes occaſioned by ſome Ladies ſuppoſing themſelves addreſſed by the compliment to Cælia extempore, and anſwer to them 94—to Moſes Brown, A. M. 152—on Jeſſy, ſuppoſed to be ſung by the Lark 318—on the Venus de Medicis 319—from Sir Thomas Mills to Mr. Garrick 264—occaſioned by the death of an only ſon 317—on a roſe-bud 372
Virginia, advices from 277
Virtue rewarded, a tale 60
Volcano in the South Sea 49
Voyages to the North 225, 281

W.

Whip (the magical) 347
Wine-vaults, remarks on 354
Will of the Duke of Kingſton 251
Wilkes's ſpeech to the Livery 107
Wit and Humour, the difference between 45
Wittol (a bird) Natural Hiſtory of 97
Women (virtuous) on their ſociety 81
Women, the hiſtory of 5, 65, 126, 191, 236, 313
Worceſter Election determined 219

Y.

Yelverton, Earl of Suſſex, account of his family 45

## DIRECTIONS *to the* BINDER *for placing the* CUTS.

The Frontiſpiece to face the Title.
Belmont and Clarinda Page 25
Arms of the noble family of Yelverton, Earl of Suſſex - - - - 45
View of the Cathedral Church of Durham 57
Carlos and Alphonſo - - 73
The Wittol, or Loriot - - 97
Head of Lewis of Bourbon, Prince of Condé - - - - - 113
The unfortunate Queen of Numidia 137
Arms of the noble family of Cowper, Earl Cowper - - - - - 159
View of Cariſbrook-Caſtle - 169
Lyſander diſcovering Orphiſa with his Rival 184
The Black-Cattle-Picker - 208
Map of the Eaſtern Hemiſphere - 225
The Ducheſs of Ferrara and Condé 241
Arms of the noble family of Stanhope, Earl Stanhope - - - - 261
Map of the Weſtern Hemiſphere 281
Don Alonzo, Frederick, and Iſiodora 301
The Starling, or Stare - - 320
Head of Eudoxia Foederowna - 337
The Puniſhment of Midas - 356

*Within the sacred grove's Majestic shade,*
*The God of Love, was artfully betray'd;*

*At which th' enchanting maids came laughing round,*
*And taunt the Youth, in flowry fetters bound.*

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# PREFACE.

WE cannot embrace a more ſuitable opportunity, than that which occurs at the commencement of a New Volume, to return our ſincere thanks to our numerous Readers, for their liberal encouragement of a Work, which, we flatter ourſelves, has appeared calculated for Public entertainment and utility; in the courſe of which, we have ſedulouſly endeavoured to render our labours not unworthy the countenance of perſons of taſte and ingenuity, by ſelecting a variety of valuable pieces tending to advance the important intereſts of reaſon and morality; and, occaſionally, to relieve the mind by ſuch articles as are moſt likely to contribute to their amuſement.

We have hitherto, we truſt, preſerved ourſelves from that contempt, into which many Publications of this kind have fallen, by improper management. We have neither collected trifles for the inconſiderate, tales of ſcandal for the malevolent, nor high-ſeaſoned anecdotes for the vicious; nor, in our political department, wantonly abuſed Government, on the one hand; nor ſlaviſhly ſupported its meaſures on the other.



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Our great object, in ſhort, has been to make the MATTER of our Work accord with its TITLE; and to form a compilation, in which the critical Reader ſhould not be totally diſappointed, whether he meant to inrich his mind with USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, or unbend it with INNOCENT PLEASURE.

Our endeavours upon this head, we hope we may ſay, without preſumption, have not been altogether fruitleſs, and we aſſure ourſelves, they will in ſome degree claim the indulgence of our Readers, for whatever errors and deficiencies may be met with in the courſe of this undertaking.

It would be an unpardonable neglect, upon this occaſion, not to expreſs our moſt grateful acknowledgements to thoſe ingenious Writers, whoſe correſpondence has aſſiſted our deſign; or not to anxiouſly ſollicit a continuation of thoſe favours, by which the value of our Work has been ſo eſſentially increaſed.

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